

September 10, 1999. Japanese Application No. 11-258133 fully supports the pending claims of this application. Thus, the present application is entitled to a filing date of September 10, 1999, which is before the September 16, 1999 publication date of WO 99/46835 and before the March 30, 2000 U.S. filing date of Ohtsuki et al. Accordingly, neither the Ohtsuki et al. U.S. patent nor the Ohtsuki et al. published PCT application qualify as prior art against the present application.

Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) is requested.

Claims 2, 3 and 29-34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Ohtsuki et al. in view of Petrov et al. Claims 4, 9, 10, 16, 18 and 41-61 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Ohtsuki et al. in view of Yoshimura et al.¹ Claims 5, 7, 8, 15, 17, 35-40 and 59-64 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Ohtsuki et al. in view of Hu et al. Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Ohtsuki et al. in view of Hu et al. and Yoshimura et al. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

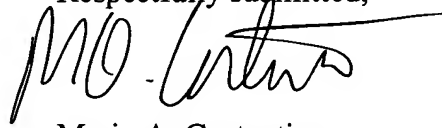
Because Ohtsuki et al. does not qualify as prior art against the present application, these rejections must be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

¹ Claims 53-58 should not be included in this rejection because they depend from allowed claim 13.

Should the Examiner believe anything further would be desirable to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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MAC/ccs

Attachments:

Certified Translation of Japanese Application No. 11-258133
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: April 21, 2006

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